

RADIATION SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Time Is Running Out!



We have a full slate of speakers scheduled for this year's Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) Conference '99. Scheduled speakers include: Col. Robert Cherry, U.S. Army HQDA; Mr. John Manfre, AMC; and representatives from CECOM, CHPPM, DLA, FORSCOM, IOC, MEDCOM, TACOM, TRADOC, USMC and the NRC.

The theme of this year's conference is "Radiation Safety Solutions." Come and share what you know. Get answers to what you don't know. All Army RSOs, from unit to MACOM, should plan to attend. This conference is intended to be Army wide, regardless of the license to which you subscribe.

This conference is the first of its kind in the Army that we know of. If the turn out is good, there might even be one planned for next year-- may be at a location near you! (We'll discuss this at the conference.)

The conference web site can be accessed from the

TACOM-Rock Island Safety web page at: <http://www-acala1.ria.army.mil/LC/R/RS/safe.htm>. Be sure to hit the refresh button to ensure you're looking at the latest additions. Everyone is invited, but you must register soon! You can register online or fill out and send in the form at the end of this newsletter.

Tours and Local Attractions!

There will be a tour option each afternoon of the conference. On Tuesday and Wednesday, you may tour the Rock Island Arsenal Radiation Counting Facility. On Thursday, we're touring

the Cordova Nuclear Power Reactor. If you wish to tour the power station, you must submit your complete name, home address, telephone and social security number to the TACOM-Rock Island Safety Office no later than 22 July 99.

Local attractions include the Bix Biderbeck Jazz Festival, the Mississippi Valley Fair, numerous golf courses, riverboat dinner cruises, and dockside casinos. Get all the latest info on the tours and a planned Riverboat Dinner Cruise at: <http://www-acala1.ria.army.mil/LC/R/RS/tour.htm>.



All aboard for RSO Conference '99!

We've Reorganized: TACOM-Rock Island

In an effort to improve the way the Tank automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) does business we have reorganized. TACOM is now a single cooperate structure.

The former TACOM-ACALA is no more. We're now TACOM-Rock Island (TACOM-RI).

Along with the name change, comes a new mailing address and office symbol. To reach us via mail please address your envelope

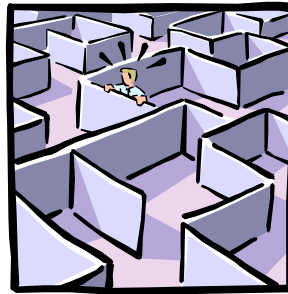
Commander
U.S. Army Tank-automotive and
Armaments Command
ATTN: AMSTA-LC-RS
Rock Island, IL 61299-7630

Our Safety Office email addresses will also be changing (individual emails will remain unchanged). As of this date, it hasn't happened, so here are both:

Old e-mail: amsta-ac-sf@ria.army.mil
New e-mail: amsta-lc-rs@ria.army.mil.

Our phone numbers and fax number will

remain the same, but our web page addresses have changed. Please update your Favorites and/or Bookmarks: <http://www-acala1.ria.army.mil/LC/R/RS/safe.htm>.



Logistics Assistance Representative (LAR) There To Help You

On almost every post, camp or station located in the United States and in strategic locations in Europe and Korea there are individuals known as Logistics Assistance Representatives (LARs). As the name implies these individuals are there to **assist** the people in the field with **logistical** problems encountered on equipment from the command that they **represent**.

TACOM has LARs located all over the world to assist you with problems on the equipment managed by TACOM. Each major

Army Materiel Command Major Subordinate Command (MSC) also has LARs to assist you as well.

All the TACOM LARs have attended the Radiation Materials Handling Safety course presented by TACOM as part of their training. The LARs have knowledge of TACOM license 12-00722-06 and may be able to assist you with any questions you have in reference to TACOM managed components containing radioactive material. The LARs can help you with problems you might encounter with



trying to turn in, requisitioning, make repairs to or other problem that might occur with a TACOM managed item.

The LARs, are people who can help you with contacts back at the Sustainment commands. The LARs are technical experts in their individual fields and are available to

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The LARs are technical experts in their individual fields and are available to assist you in your problems with TACOM managed items.

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assist you in your problems with TACOM managed items.

To locate the LAR in your area, call the Senior Command Representative. In Europe call DSN 375-3461/6128, commercial 06213461. In Korea call

DSN 315-722-3036/3579, commercial 520-603/6579. In CONUS call DSN 367-6293/6204, commercial 404-464-6293/6204. Or call your local Logistical Assistance Office (LAO).

You can also go into the Army Electronic Products System (AEPS)

at <http://aeaps.ria.army.mil>. There you will find all of the TACOM LARs names, addresses, and phone numbers, e-mail addresses and more for every location.

Radiation Safety Training

Radiation training for TACOM-RI managed items has greatly improved over the last few years. TACOM-RI has also provided training to a record number of people in the past couple of quarters. Both of these are good. TACOM-RI would like to continue to provide top level training to as many people as possible.

To ensure this level of training continues in FY00, TACOM-RI is going to review training material, take into consideration comments from past classes and incorporate many of those changes into the training materials. Also the class size will be limited to 35 people per weekly class. Should the number of people in need of training be more than 35, training will need to

be scheduled over multiple weeks. However, the cost of additional training will be the responsibility of the host.

ning for training in FY00. Attached is the current schedule and information on contacting TACOM-RI for training. As you can see the schedule is al-

ready starting to fill up, so make plans and contact us early.

Contact Mr. Jack R. Wilhoit, TACOM-RI Safety Office, DSN 793-3666, comm. 309-782-3666, email wilhoitj@ria.army.mil.

As you can see the schedule is already starting to fill up, so make plans and contact us early.

Training Schedule	
Jun 28 – Jul 9, 1999	Germany
Aug 17-20, 1999	Ft. Lewis, WA
Aug 24-27, 1999	Rock Island Arsenal,
Oct 26-29, 1999	Ft. Dix, NJ
Jan 18- 21, 2000	Rock Island Arsenal,
Mar 13-17, 2000	Ft. Hood, TX
Mar 13-17, 2000	Rock Island Arsenal,
May 16-19, 2000	Rock Island Arsenal,
Aug 15-18, 2000	Rock Island Arsenal, IL

TACOM-RI is limited to the number of locations where training can be provided due to budget constraints. If you would like to have training provided contact TACOM-RI for information on scheduling the class.

As we are now in the last quarter of FY99, everyone needs to start plan-



WIPE!

~ The Right Time, The Right Place ~

What rad materials or areas are supposed to be wiped?

When are wipe surveys required?

Where are wipes required?

If these are questions you've asked... READ ON! And you may walk away with some answers!

One of the goals we had in re-writing our NRC license (other than meeting the requirement to do so) was to clarify its requirements. Hopefully we attained some measure of that goal.

Wipe surveys (known by some as "smears") are required at several times and in various situations and places (10 CFR 20.1501). However, "when the wipe meets the contaminated surface" (or is it "when the rubber meets the road"?), many are having problems with the when and where to perform the dastardly deed!

Well! Here is what the license boils down to on the wipe survey issue.

WHAT, WHEN and WHERE:

- ANYTIME a radioactive source is suspected of being, or actually is broken.
- ANYTIME a fire control device containing tritium is NOT properly

illuminated.

- PRIOR TO PACKAGING commodities containing radioactive sources for shipment. This could be done at the shipping point or prior to sending an item for shipment (if done before sending to the shipping point, be sure to forward evidence that a wipe has been performed).

- UPON RECEIPT of packages containing radioactive commodities, IF the package is damaged or otherwise compromised. The RPO should be informed of damaged or compromised packages anyway!

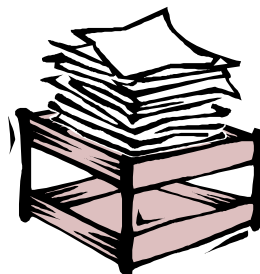
- MONTHLY:

All depot level maintenance areas such as: Tritium Instrument Repair Rooms (TIRRs) and Americium/Nickel maintenance areas. Also perform direct surveys at the close of days when an Americium/Nickel area is used.

- QUARTERLY:

All storage areas containing radioactive commodities.

All radiologically controlled areas (e.g., maintenance) and areas immediately adjacent to them.



Wipe surveys are one thing, but then there are LEAK TESTS!

Commodities containing Americium or Nickel sources require LEAK TESTING of each individual item. Leak Testing is a wipe of a component containing a source, to determine the integrity of the internal source.

Components with tritium sources are NOT leak tested. Tritium always "off gases" and therefore, some amount of contamination may present ... it's normal. So... when are these "leak tests" required? Let me list the What, When and Where:

- ANNUALLY, for M43A1's, CAM's and ACADA's not in long term storage. (The fact that these leak tests are performed must be reported to through the DODRATTS system. This is the Army's means of tracking these radioactive commodities.)

Wipe surveys (known by some as "smears") are required at several times and in various situations and places (10 CFR 20.1501).

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- UPON RECEIPT, if there is no evidence that a leak test has been performed within the previous 12 months.

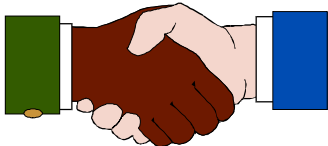
These are the wipe surveys and leak tests required by the license. Wipe/Leak test requirements will also be listed in an implementation document being prepared for publication (TB 43-0197). If there are questions remaining (or

raised by this article) please forward them to this office via the following e-mail, mohst@ria.army.mil or call DSN 793-6228.

May all your wipes be as clean as plate from which you eat (which isn't located in an area containing radiological materials ... RIGHT)! Remember: the job is never completed until the paper work is done.



Congratulations, You're The New RPO!



Good career move; Radiation Safety is hot right now! You'll definitely have the Commander's ear. And all you'll need to do is a little brushing up on Chemistry, Biology, and a little math review.

Now that's all done, to really be on top of your game you need a crash course in regulatory interpretation.

In everyday reality you're probably a member of some other profession besides radiation safety. So, who are you going to get to help you out? You don't want to seem like you don't know what you're doing, so calling higher command is unappealing. TDY funds aren't available, so schools are out. You're definitely not ready for an inspection;

most people aren't early into a new job. What are your choices?

If you're an installation or activity RPO and you use; fire control devices, Chemical Agent Detectors, Chemical Agent Monitors, and/or Automated Chemical Agent Detector Alarms, you are in luck. The TACOM-RI does offer consultation visits to new and established RPOs. We come to your organization and stay as long as you like {within reason}. We address all of your program concerns, review what ever you present to us, and speak with whom ever you like us to speak with. The only thing we log is a trip report.

What we will not do is:

- Come with an agenda, hidden or otherwise.
- Produce a report, even if asked.

- Relate observations to inspection agencies.

The point of offering these visits; which are free, is to ensure that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensed material which the TACOM-RI manages, is procured, used, maintained, and disposed of in accordance with regulations. This program is a win-win situation; it assures your program is within compliance and provides knowledge to the TACOM-RI on how commodities are controlled in the field.



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UNSOLVED INCIDENTS

The Case Of The Broken Range Indicator
A.K.A. The Handle And Firing Mechanism

There has been a recent rash of mysterious incidents involving the 60MM, M224 Mortar Range Indicator Handle. This is what happens: unnamed person(s) (alias 'Crowbar'), removes the molded plastic range indicator tritium light (containing 4 sources of 0.8 curies each) from the handle and firing mechanism. Crowbar's modus operandi is to lurk around arms rooms and remove said part using a hammer, punch or other tool. This results in breakage and release of tritium causing contamination of crime scene facilities and equipment.

Some key points to beware of:

- Only DS/GS maintenance personnel are authorized to remove the plastic range indicator.

- Perform said maintenance in an approved repair facility, preferably under well ventilated conditions (e.g., a fume hood). Don't repair inside an arms room!
- If resistance is experienced, use a fume hood and remove with care. Don't pry, punch, hit or force!
- Make sure you have a maintenance SOP approved by your RPO that describes the actions to take in the event of tritium release.

An all-points Ground Precautionary Message (GPM) has been published on these unwanted incidents (attached). Please put this GPM up on your bulletin board, and in the following Technical Manuals for future

surveillance:

TM 9-1010-223-10,
15SEP98
TM 9-1010-223-23&P,
15SEP98

Crowbar is to be considered armed with the wrong tools and ill informed. He/she could be anyone among us! So, remember to exercise extreme caution when approaching these tasks, and report all suspicious intelligence to your Radiation Protection Officer (RPO) immediately.



If resistance is experienced, use a fume hood and remove with care. Don't pry, punch, hit or force!

Correction Please!

The Ground Precautionary Message (GPM) 99-01 dated 11 May 99 contained an error in paragraph 3A(1). The Molded Plastic Range Indicator contains 3.2 Curies (not 4.8). The message attached to this newsletter has been corrected. We regret any confusion caused by this error.

NRC Approves License Amendment

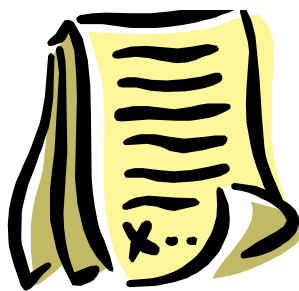
The NRC recently approved Amendment 35, May 19, 1999 to license 12-00722-06. The new amendment incorporates the following changes:

- Item 8, paragraph 1. c: The installation RPOs refresher training commitment with job proficiency evaluation every 2 years will be removed except that we must continue to commit to initial qualification training of RPO's as a requirement. The refresher training opportunities will take the form of live courses, Internet based training and interactive training compact disks (CD).
- Item 8, paragraph 1.c

(1): The Communication and Electronics Command's Radiation Protection Officer Training course was "qualified" for initial RPO training (40 hours).

- Item 9, paragraph 5.c (3): The calibration frequency of liquid scintillation counters was changed from quarterly to "per the manufacturer's instructions."
- Item 10, paragraph 4. a: Routine quarterly surveys of controlled areas were reaffirmed necessary for maintenance and storage.

You will probably want to download this latest amendment at <http://>



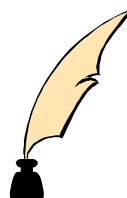
www-acala1.ria.army.mil/ACALA/SAFETY/postings.htm and keep it on file in accordance with (IAW) Title 10 CFR 19.11 (click on [BML 12-00722-06](#)). The original license application has been completely revised and is available to RPOs upon request. But, all these changes have also been incorporated into our draft TB 43-0197, Revision 2. So, if you got this latest draft, you've got everything!

We Need You — To Submit Articles

Do you ever read this bulletin and wonder why they don't write an article on _____? Here is your chance to have your own byline. We are soliciting for articles to be included in future editions of this bulletin. You may

submit either draft article, or an idea for an article that you would like to see written. We want to make sure this bulletin is the best it can be, and that it serves the needs of it's readers. Please submit you draft articles

or ideas via email to: amsta-ac-sf@ria.army.mil or fax a copy to 309-782-6758 or DSN 793-6758. All article and ideas will be greatly appreciated.



You will probably want to download this latest amendment and keep it on file in accordance with (IAW) Title 10 CFR 19.11.

**TANK-AUTOMOTIVE AND
ARMAMENTS COMMAND**

Phone: 309-782-6499
DSN: 793-6499
Fax: 309-782-6758
Email: amsta-lc-rs@ria.army.mil



Committed To Excellence!

You're Cordially Invited! RSVP!!

It's not too late to register for the RSO Conference in Moline, Illinois this 2-5 August 1999! But, if you are planning to attend, please register as soon as possible (ASAP).

You can register online at: <http://www-acala1.ria.army.mil/LC/R/RS/>



Pack Your Bags!

index-conf.htm; or print out the following form and fax it to (309) 782-6758/DSN 793-6758; or mail it to:

U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command
ATTN: AMSTA-LC-RS
Rock Island, IL 61299-7630

RSO CONFERENCE '99 REGISTRATION

Name:			
MACOM/ Service:			
Address:			
Address:			
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City:		State:	
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Country:			
Zip Code:			
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E-Mail:			

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UNCLAS

SUBJECT: GROUND PRECAUTIONARY MESSAGE (GPM), TACOM-ACALA CONTROL NO. 99-01, RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE RANGE INDICATOR (NSN 5840-01-458-6159) FOR THE 60MM, M224 MORTAR (NSN 1010-01-020-5626)

1. DISTRIBUTION: NOTE THIS IS A GROUND PRECAUTIONARY MESSAGE THAT HAS NOT BEEN TRANSMITTED TO SUBORDINATE UNITS. MACOM COMMANDERS WILL IMMEDIATELY RETRANSMIT THIS MESSAGE TO ALL SUBORDINATE UNITS, ACTIVITIES, OR ELEMENTS AFFECTED OR CONCERNED. RETRANSMITTAL SHALL REFERENCE THIS MESSAGE. MACOM COMMANDERS WILL IMMEDIATELY VERIFY RECEIPT AND RETRANSMISSION OF THIS MESSAGE BY SENDING AN INFO COPY OF THE RETRANSMITTAL TO DIRECTOR, TANK-AUTOMOTIVE AND ARMAMENT COMMAND-ARMAMENT AND CHEMICAL ACQUISITION AND LOGISTICS ACTIVITY (TACOM-ACALA), ATTN: AMSTA-AC-SF, ROCK ISLAND, IL 61299-7630, E-MAIL AMSTA-AC-SF@RIA.ARMY.MIL.

2. PROBLEM DISCUSSION:

A. SUMMARY OF PROBLEM. OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS, THREE RADIOLOGICAL INCIDENTS OCCURRED WITH THE RANGE INDICATOR FOR THE 60MM, M224 MORTAR. EACH INCIDENT RESULTED IN A BROKEN TRITIUM SOURCE AND POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION THAT IS REPORTABLE TO THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC). AS THE LICENSE HOLDER, TACOM-ACALA IS RESPONSIBLE TO THE NRC FOR PROPER MANAGEMENT OF THIS EQUIPMENT AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CIVIL PENALTIES.

B. PARTS, ASSEMBLY, OR COMPONENTS INVOLVED ARE: RANGE INDICATOR (NSN 5840-01-458-6159) FOR THE 60MM, M224 MORTAR (NSN 1010-01-020-5626).

3. USER ACTIONS:

A. TASK/COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE:

(1) MORTAR CREWS AND ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL ARE PROHIBITED FROM REMOVING THE MOLDED PLASTIC RANGE INDICATOR (CONTAINING TRITIUM LIGHT SOURCES, 3.2 CURIES) FROM THE HANDLE AND FIRING MECHANISM OF THE 60MM, M224 MORTAR.

(2) REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT OF THE RANGE INDICATOR IS ONLY AUTHORIZED AT DIRECT SUPPORT OR HIGHER MAINTENANCE. MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL SHALL NOT USE SCREWDRIVERS AND/OR PUNCHES TO REMOVE THE RANGE INDICATOR FROM THE HANDLE AND FIRING MECHANISM. THE RANGE INDICATOR SHOULD BE EASILY REMOVED AFTER REMOVAL OF THE TWO SCREWS AND CLIPS THAT HOLD THE RANGE INDICATOR IN PLACE. IF RESISTENCE IS ENCOUNTERED DURING REMOVAL, PLACE THE RANGE INDICATOR UNDER VENTILATION CONTROLS (LABORATORY HOOD) AND EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION TO REMOVE.

C. TECHNICAL REFERENCES: TM 9-1010-223-23&P, SEP 98.

4. THE POCS FOR THIS GPM ARE:

A. TECHNICAL: MR. JOE SCHMIDT, TACOM-ACALA, ATTN: AMSTA-AC-FATM, DSN 793-3369, E-MAIL SCHMIDTJ@RIA.ARMY.MIL.

B. SAFETY OFFICE: MRS. JUDITH D. WINDHAM, TACOM-ACALA, ATTN: AMSTA-AC-SF, DSN 793-6367, E-MAIL WINDHAMJ2@RIA.ARMY.MIL

BT